COASTAL CURRENTS

The Sydney Coastal Councils Group Quarterly Newsletter | Autumn Edition 2018| #87

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The SCCG was established in 1989 to promote coordination between Member Councils on environmental issues relating to sustainable management of the urban coastal environment.

The SCCG currently consists of ten Member Councils adjacent to Sydney marine and estuarine environments and associated waterways, and represents around 1.3 million Sydneysiders.

From the Chair

The long awaited Coastal Management Act 2016 and State Environmental Planning Policy (Coastal Management) 2018 commenced on 3 April, as the new legislative and strategic land use planning framework for more effective coastal management. For those Councils at the stage of developing a Coastal Management Program or transitioning from a Coastal Zone Management Plan to the new Coastal Management Program, you can still apply for funding to develop your plan until 30 June 2018, through the Coastal and Estuary Grants Program.

SCCG has seen some collaborative projects come to fruition and are still working hard to achieve outcomes on others. We have partnered with various organisations to apply for grant funding under the Environmental Trust Research Grants, and we are supporting other applications on which we await news. In the meantime, the SCCG has a renewed focus with its Business Plan being adopted in March. One of the key focus areas of the Business Plan is pollution reduction.

We are keen to work with our Member Councils, partner organisations and stakeholders to tackle the issue of plastics impacting on our marine environment, putting a spotlight on 'hotspot' pollution sources including stormwater, sewer leaks and non-compliant connections, and advocate for a better solution to the primary treatment of sewer flowing from the remaining ocean outfalls around Sydney. To see the daily pollution forecast for Sydney beaches provided by Beachwatch go to: www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/water/beaches/sydney-beaches

On another note, it is with great sadness that I announce the resignation of the SCCG Executive Officer, Geoff Withycombe, who will leave the group at the end of June. Geoff has worked at the SCCG for nearly 23 years and has lead as the Executive Officer for 20 years, making the SCCG into what it is today. We greatly appreciate Geoff's investment in the group as well as his many substantial and significant achievements on behalf of Member Councils, and would like to recognise and thank Geoff for his contribution to coastal management locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. We wish Geoff all the best for his future endeavours.

Councillor Lynne Saville
SCCG CHAIRPERSON

Sutherland Shire COUNCIL

NORTH SYDNEY COUNCIL

WILLOUGHBY CITY COUNCIL
City of Diversity

Mosman COUNCIL

Bayside Council

WAVERLEY COUNCIL

Randwick City Council
a sense of community

northern beaches council

WOOLLAHRA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

INNER WEST COUNCIL

www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au

Collaboration

Get the Site Right

The Get the Site Right Program was a success in November 2017 with 891 building sites inspected across our participating council areas, 60% of which were compliant with erosion and sediment controls.

A video of the Get the Site Right Campaign has been developed. To watch the video click here.

The Get the Site Right campaign will be launched again in May 2018, with the blitz day set for 16th May. Developers and DIY renovators be warned - make sure you do the right thing by the environment and the community and ensure you are not polluting our waterways with sediments — get your site right!

To report sediment runoff or other pollution incidents contact the NSW Environment Line on 131555 or your local council.

Climate Ready Tool—Business Case

Through the SCCG Salty Communities Program, the CSIRO have been working with Waverley Council and Centennial Parklands in using the Climate Ready Biodiversity Management Tool to apply to a real life example — the endangered ecological community, Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub. The Tool provides for a new way of thinking and understanding biodiversity management options in the face of climate change.

A Business Case document has been developed for this example, enabling others to glean from and gain a better understanding of the Tool process. The Climate Ready Tool Analysis and Business Case Example document can be downloaded from the SCCG website.

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Hollows as Homes Citizen Science

Hollows as Homes is a citizen science project run as a collaboration between the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney, Australian Museum and Sydney University, and commenced with the support of the SCCG through the Australian Government grant funded Salty Communities Program.

Hollow bearing trees, particularly in the urban environment, are important habitat for mammals, birds reptiles and frogs.

Hollows for Homes calls on the local community to monitor, measure and report on tree hollows in their backyards, streets and local parks and bushland. This data will highlight the number of hollow bearing trees available as habitat for our native wildlife.

You are needed for this important task! To find out more watch this YouTube clip at youtu.be/EpQtat76d6Q or to register a hollow click here.

SPLASH

SCCG has signed up as an in-kind member of SPLASH.

SPLASH aims to build capacity in people and organisations around sustainability, liveability, productivity and climate resilience supporting the transition to water sensitive cities across NSW.

As an in-kind member SCCG will work with SPLASH to provide various capacity building workshops around integrated water management; and climate change in relation to coastal management and water sensitive cities.

Projects

SCCG Business Plan

At the SCCG Full Group meeting on 17 March, SCCG adopted its Business Plan 2017-2019. The Business Plan has been developed in consultation and collaboration with our Member Councils to ensure the Business Plan aligns with Member Council needs and priorities.

The Plan includes three priority themes: i) Catchment Management; ii) Pollution Reduction; and iii) Policy and Legislative Reforms. Each theme consists of 4 primary actions to be achieved.

Sydney Coastal Councils Group Business Plan 2017-19

This document is based on extensive consultation with senior and technical staff of SCCG Member Councils.

The Plan has been reviewed and endorsed by Member Council General Managers or their nominated delegate, and was adopted at the SCCG Full Group Meeting on 17 March 2018.

Adapting Recreational Infrastructure

SCCG's 'Adapting Priority Coastal Recreational Infrastructure for Climate Change' project, in partnership with the National Committee on Coastal and Ocean Engineering (funded under the Building Resilience to Climate Change Program) is in it's final stages.

An assessment method and decision framework for priority recreational coastal infrastructure assets has been developed and is currently being trialled using nominated case studies from Member Councils including Northern Beaches and Sutherland Council, which both provide a good representation of coastal and estuarine recreational infrastructure assets. Once trialled and finalised the assessment methodology/tool will be promoted widely to all coastal councils within NSW.

On completion of this project, coastal councils and managers will be able to access a tool that will assist in making rational and strategic decisions in responding to the effects of climate change, and to maximise public value for money by building resilience through triggers and well-defined funding models.

This project will be presented at the NCCARF Conference on 8 May 2018.

Advocacy

Environment SEPP

SCCG put together a submission on the Environment SEPP. This submission can be viewed on the SCCG website.

Greater Sydney Commission

The Greater Sydney Commission has released the final five District Plans as well as the overarching 'A Metropolis of Three Cities—the Greater Sydney Region Plan'.

The Plans can be viewed on the GSC website.

Land Management and Biodiversity Conservation Reforms

The Nature Conservation Council and EDO NSW had a short-lived win in the Land and Environment Court in March 2018, with the court declaring that : '*on and from 24 August 2017, the Land Management (Native Vegetation) Code 2017 has been invalid and of no effect'*.

Rather than taking this opportunity to revise the code including strong ecologically sustainable development principles, the NSW government instead chose to quickly remake the Code as is, condemning our flora and fauna.

Meanwhile …..

The Biodiversity Conservation Trust has released their Business Plan 17/18-20/21. To download this document click here.

The BCT will offer $37 million to landholders in the first program round in 2018 to support conservation management.

Coastal Info

Coastal Management SEPP

The State Environmental Planning Policy (Coastal Management) 2018 came into effect on 3rd April, supporting the management objectives set out in the Coastal Management Act 2016, which has now commenced. The Coastal Management SEPP replaces SEPP 71 (Coastal Protection), SEPP 14 (Coastal Wetlands) and SEPP 26 (Littoral Rainforests).

Councils are required to update their mapping to align with the new SEPP, although at this stage the SEPP does not provide mapping for the Coastal Vulnerability Area. Councils will be required to adhere to existing policies applicable to this area.

It is also noted that the amendments to the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act mean a new numbering system is in place under the Act with planning certificates now being issued under Section 10.7 (previously 149 certificates).

Operation Crayweed

Operation Crayweed is a joint project between the Sydney Institute of Marine Science and UNSW. The project was developed to address the vast underwater forests that have gone missing from the Sydney coastline, with repercussion for local fish, abalone, crayfish and coastal marine biodiversity. The project aims to bring crayweed back to reefs where it once flourished and to re-establish essential habitat and food source for Sydney's coastal marine biodiversity.

Crayweed provide critical food and habitat that supports hundreds of species whilst also capturing atmospheric carbon and producing oxygen. Crayweed scientists have created a method of transporting healthy, fertile adult crayweed to deforested rocks where they survive, reproduce and thrive. By restoring crayweed the project hopes to restore its associated underwater community.

To find out more visit the Operation Crayweed website or Facebook page.

Coastal Hazard Management Short Course

The Griffith Centre for Coastal Management, at Griffith University is holding a Coastal Hazard Management Short Course from 2nd-4th May in Brisbane. For more details click here.

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NCCARF Webinar Series

The National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (NCCARF) has developed the NCCARF Adaptation Webinar Series 2018 to explore key climate adaptation topics, including '*climate change, extremes and sea level rise', 'how climate change might transform tourism',* and '*coastal planning and governance under climate change and sea level rise'.*

If you haven't yet watched the webinar series—click here.

Water Management Resource

The Committee for Sydney have developed an issues paper called Sydney's Water Future: Planning for an Unrainy Day. This looks into the current water use habits and how water should be valued and managed in the face of water scarcity.

To download a copy click here.

Just for Interest

The film Blue highlights the state of our oceans due to overfishing, habitat destruction, species loss and pollution; and provides us all with a wake up call:

'*that by 2050 there will be more plastic in the sea than fish'.*

If you haven't yet seen the film Blue, it is well worth watching. View the trailer here.

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